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NEWS RELEASE

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Unemployment Rate Remains Above National Average in All but Two Metro Areas

Job Growth Remains Mixed in the Metro Areas

Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Area	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington	5.1%	4.9%	0.2
Carbondale-Marion	5.9%	6.0%	-0.1
Champaign-Urbana	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights	5.4%	5.6%	-0.2
Danville	7.1%	7.3%	-0.2
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	5.6%	5.3%	0.3
Decatur	6.7%	7.3%	-0.6
Elgin	5.1%	5.6%	-0.5
Kankakee	6.1%	6.7%	-0.6
Lake-Kenosha, IL-WI	4.8%	5.1%	-0.3
Peoria	6.2%	6.5%	-0.3
Rockford	6.3%	7.0%	-0.7
Springfield	4.6%	5.1%	-0.5
St. Louis (IL-Section)	5.7%	6.2%	-0.5
Illinois Statewide	5.5%	5.8%	-0.3

* Data subject to revision.

CHICAGO—Again this month, twelve of Illinois' metropolitan (metro) areas experienced decreases in their over-the-year unemployment rate and eight of the metro areas had increases in nonfarm jobs, according to preliminary data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES)."

"Job growth is primarily confined to metro areas north of the I-80 corridor and even though it is growth, it is anemic growth when compared to other major metro areas across the country such as New York, Los Angeles and Dallas," said IDES Director Jeff Mays. "And many of the Downstate metros still haven't fully recovered from the recession."

Illinois businesses added jobs in eight metro areas, in which the largest increases were seen in: Rockford (+2.2 percent, +3,400), Lake-Kenosha (+1.5 percent, +6,300), and Elgin (+1.3 percent, +3,400). Total nonfarm jobs in the Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division increased (+1.3 percent or +46,800).

Illinois businesses lost jobs in six metro areas including the Quad Cities (-3.2 percent, -5,900), Bloomington (-2.5 percent, -2,400),

and Carbondale-Marion (-2.3 percent, -1,300). The industry sectors recording job growth in the majority of metro areas were: Retail Trade (10 of 14), Professional and Business Services (eight of 14), and Leisure and Hospitality (eight of 14).

Not seasonally adjusted data compares August 2016 with August 2015. The not seasonally adjusted Illinois rate was 5.5 percent in August 2016 and stood at 12.2 percent at its peak in this economic cycle in January 2010. Nationally, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.0 percent in August 2016 and 10.6 percent in January 2010 at its peak. The unemployment rate identifies those who are out of work and looking for work, and is not tied to collecting unemployment insurance benefits.

Total Nonfarm Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted) – August 2016

Metropolitan Area	Aug. 2016*	Aug. 2015**	Over-the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA	91,900	94,300	-2,400
Carbondale-Marion MSA	55,700	57,000	-1,300
Champaign-Urbana MSA	104,300	103,200	1,100
Chicago-Naperville-Arlington Heights Metro Division	3,724,200	3,677,400	46,800
Danville MSA	28,900	29,100	-200
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island MSA	179,500	185,400	-5,900
Decatur MSA	50,800	51,700	-900
Elgin Metro Division	259,800	256,400	3,400
Kankakee MSA	45,000	44,500	500
Lake-County-Kenosha County Metro Division	419,500	413,200	6,300
Peoria MSA	177,700	179,500	-1,800
Rockford MSA	155,800	152,400	3,400
Springfield MSA	117,400	116,500	900
Illinois Section of St. Louis MSA	234,700	234,000	700
Illinois Statewide	6,022,900	5,985,600	37,300

*Preliminary **Revised

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**Not Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
(percent) for Local Counties and Areas**

	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Over- the-Year Change
Bloomington MSA			
DeWitt County	5.6%	5.5%	0.1
McLean County	5.1%	4.9%	0.2
Peoria MSA			
Marshall County	5.9%	6.6%	-0.7
Peoria County	6.6%	6.9%	-0.3
Stark County	6.7%	6.2%	0.5
Tazewell County	6.0%	6.4%	-0.4
Woodford County	4.9%	5.1%	-0.2
Ottawa-Streator Area	6.0%	6.6%	-0.6
Bureau County	5.8%	6.3%	-0.5
LaSalle County	6.2%	6.7%	-0.5
Putnam County	5.2%	6.0%	-0.8
Galesburg Area	5.6%	6.0%	-0.4
Knox County	5.6%	6.0%	-0.4
Warren County	5.1%	5.5%	-0.4
Cities			
Bloomington City	5.5%	5.1%	0.4
Galesburg City	5.9%	6.5%	-0.6
Normal City	4.9%	4.8%	0.1
Pekin City	6.9%	7.9%	-1.0
Peoria City	6.8%	7.2%	-0.4
Counties			
Fulton County	6.9%	7.6%	-0.7
Henderson County	5.7%	7.2%	-1.5
Henry County	5.4%	5.8%	-0.4
Livingston County	5.2%	5.6%	-0.4
Logan County	5.1%	5.4%	-0.3
Mason County	7.1%	7.6%	-0.5

Pontiac Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.2 percent in August 2016 from 5.6 percent in August 2015. Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment increased by +100. Manufacturing (+250) and Financial Activities (+50) had the largest increases while the Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-125), Leisure-Hospitality (-50), and Educational-Health Services (-50) sectors had the largest declines from a year ago.

Note:

Monthly 2015 unemployment rates and total non-farm jobs for Illinois metro areas were revised in February and March 2016, as required by the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Comments and tables distributed for prior metro area news releases should be discarded as any records or historical analysis previously cited may no longer be valid.

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Central Illinois Highlights

Help Wanted

Area employers advertised for 8,600 positions in August and approximately 82 percent sought full-time employment, according to Help Wanted OnLine data compiled by the Conference Board, which is a global, independent business membership and research association. Employers actually need more workers than the help wanted advertising indicates because some industries, such as Construction, typically do not post advertised job openings.

Bloomington MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.1 percent in August 2016 when compared to 4.9 percent in August 2015. There were an estimated 4,900 unemployed people in the labor force in August 2016.

Over the year, nonfarm payroll employment declined by (-2,400). Jobs gains were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+500), Professional and Business Services (+300), Other Services (+100), and Financial Activities (+100). Declines were reported in Manufacturing (-1,300), Government (-900), Retail Trade (-700), Construction (-500), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-100). All other major industry sectors were little changed compared to a year ago.

Peoria MSA: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.2 percent in August 2016 from 6.5 percent in August 2015. There were an estimated 11,500 unemployed people in the labor force in August 2016.

Nonfarm payroll employment declined by (-1,800) compared to August 2015. Job gains were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+1,400) and Retail Trade (+700). Declines were reported in Manufacturing (-1,700), Professional and Business Services (-800), Government (-300), Construction (-200), and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities (-100).

Ottawa-Streator Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 6.0 percent in August 2016 from 6.6 percent in August 2015. The last time the August rate was equal to or lower than the current rate was in 2007 when it was 5.4 percent. Nonfarm payrolls increased +200 compared to a year ago. The largest gains occurred in Professional-Business Services (+225), Transportation and Warehousing (+100), Leisure and Hospitality (+75), and Information (+50). The Manufacturing (-200) sector had the largest employment decline over the year.

Galesburg Area: The not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 5.6 percent in August 2016 from 6.0 percent in August 2015. Nonfarm payroll employment was (+450) higher than last year. Job Gains were led by Educational-Health Services (+150), Leisure and Hospitality (+100), Manufacturing (+50), Government (+50), Transportation-Warehousing (+50), and Retail (+50). All other industry sectors were relatively stable compared to a year ago.